

Map dispute nearly scuttles historic pact

BY BARRY SCHWEID
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CAIRO, Egypt — The dignitaries gathered for the historic ceremony Wednesday were aghast. The documents were ready for signing to move Israelis and Palestinians closer to peace. And then PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat stalked off the stage.

The Palestinian leader refused to sign six maps that accompanied the 450-page agreement spelling out the transfer of power from Israelis to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was ready to walk out as well.

At issue was the unresolved question of the boundaries of Jericho. Arafat was concerned that if he signed the maps he would unintentionally accept their lines.

For his part, Rabin was unwilling to go ahead unless Arafat signed the maps.

"I made it clear that unless the maps will be signed there will be no agreement," he said later.

The result was disarray. Israelis and PLO officials haggled and gesticulated before their embarrassed sponsors and the bewildered audience of dignitaries.

In the confusion, Secretary of State Warren Christopher walked to the wrong podium. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev did not hear himself called to speak.

"Amnon!" Rabin shouted, summoning head Israeli negotiator Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak to pore over maps on stage.

Finally the dispute was resolved after the sides walked offstage, and Arafat received assurances the disputed maps were not seen as the final version.

At last, it was time for Rabin and Arafat to sign the agreement and shake hands.

"The world witnessed the tip of the iceberg of the problems we shall have to overcome," Rabin told the 2,500 people invited to witness the signing.

It was a moment achieved only after months of difficult negotiations and repeated delays. The parties had to overcome generations of hostility, mistrust and extremist violence.

The agreement, mediated by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Christopher, ends 27 years of Israeli control of Gaza, with its 750,000 Palestinian residents, and Jericho.



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, right, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, left, invite each other to be the first to speak as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak looks on. Rabin and Arafat signed a historic accord Wednesday that started Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and opened an era of Palestinian self-rule.

KEY POINTS OF PLO-ISRAEL ACCORD

- Israel will complete its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho within three weeks.
- A Palestinian Authority is established with the signing of the agreement. It will consist of 24 members and have legislative and executive powers.
- With Wednesday's signing, the five-year interim period begins for negotiating a permanent solution on the fate of the occupied territories and the relationship between Israel and the Palestinians.
- Israel retains authority over the Jewish settlements, a military base along the Egyptian border and external security, including the frontier crossings to Egypt and Jordan. Three east-west roads from the settlements to Israel will be the main routes for settlers to cross autonomous areas. Israel will have overall responsibility for these roads, but they will be patrolled jointly by Palestinian police and Israelis.
- Jewish settlements and the main military base will continue receiving the same amount of drinking and agricultural water. Israel will tell the Palestinians how much water is used.
- Israeli authorities will turn over all data and statistics needed for the transfer of power.
- The Palestinians shall establish a strong police force, numbering up to 9,000 men, including 7,000 from outside the territories. They will be equipped with light personal weapons, 120 machine guns and 45 wheeled armored vehicles. Their spouses and children can also return.
- Upon signing Israel will release within a period of five weeks about 5,000 Palestinian prisoners, and the two sides will continue to negotiate the release of additional detainees.
- A committee will be created to consider the repatriation of Palestinians displaced from the Gaza Strip and West Bank in the 1967 Six-Day War. Palestinians say as many as 800,000 could be eligible.
- There will be safe passage for Palestinians between the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Travelers will have to carry special permits and take specific routes.
- There will be a temporary international presence made up of 400 observers, instructors and other experts from five or six donor countries. Their six-month term can be renewed. Their exact function is not defined.

MIDEAST: Era of Palestinian self-rule begins in Gaza, Jericho

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size of the Jericho area, and Palestinian demands to have at least a symbolic police presence at border crossings.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Arafat, bartering even as the ceremony unfolded, signed the 200-page document that emerged from nearly seven months of talks repeatedly interrupted by violence and deadlocks. An outline of autonomy was signed Sept. 13 in Washington. This document filled in details.

Arafat's pique produced an extraordinary scene as President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and others negotiated on stage with the boss of the Palestine Liberation Organization as speeches continued.

Later, President Clinton congratulated both Rabin and Arafat in separate telephone calls. He urged them to put the agreement into effect quickly.

Brig. Gen. Ghazi Al-Jabali, leader of the advance group of 19 police commanders who arrived Wednesday from Egypt, toured military camps that Israel will turn over in Gaza City, Khan Yunis and Rafah.

He said the initial force of 1,500 Palestinian police officers would arrive in a week.

Al-Jabali also said the hated nightly curfew imposed by Israel would not be lifted immediately. "We are not in control yet," he said.

Three commanders traveled in Israeli military jeeps to Jericho, expected to be the government center for Palestinian self-rule. The phased transfer of authority hinges largely on 7,000 police arriving from outside and training 2,000 locally.

Rabin said Arafat asked for up to four weeks for the transfer rather than the three set in the autonomy agreement.

Arafat probably will go to the autonomous areas early next month, when the new administration is in place, said PLO senior negotiator Nabil Shaath.

Palestinians, still doubtful about the degree of control Israel will have over their lives, did not make the signing ceremony a holiday.

Some still threw stones at Israeli soldiers in West Bank areas not yet autonomous. A soldier was seriously injured by a rock thrown at his car as he drove through Hawara village near Nablus, the army said.

Palestinians consider the agreement the first step toward an independent state, something Israel has said it would resist. Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The effects of the signing were immediately visible in Gaza with the start of the 11 a.m. ceremony in Cairo.

At the Rafah crossing in southern Gaza, Palestinian officials and Israeli officers watched television together as they waited for the Palestinian police commanders.

An hour after the signing, the first of 600 Palestinian prisoners, including four belonging to factions opposed to the PLO-Israel accord, got off buses on the outskirts of Gaza City to the welcome of their relatives.

The four, two of them members of the Islamic group Hamas that vows to keep attacking Israelis, had to sign a statement condemning violence and terror.

Under the agreement, Israel is to free 5,000 Palestinian inmates over the next three weeks — about half those held in Israeli jails.

Israel also let 14 Palestinian deportees and 10 dependents enter Israel on Wednesday, bringing to about 150 the number allowed back since negotiations started.

LYONS: Friends, ex-colleagues recall integrity

From A-1

plaque. Not to mention the Astro-dome, the toll road system and the county's Flood Control District.

And roads. Lyons' reputation was practically built on the roads he paved and maintained. He once said that 80 percent of his job was keeping up the roads in his precinct.

"You're talking about going from a period of dirt roads to asphalt roads to concrete roads," said Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole, who succeeded Lyons in 1991.

Born Everett Augustus Lyons Jr. in the Heights on April 12, 1910, one of Lyons' first jobs was delivering the old Houston Press on horseback. He got his nickname in high school, where he was an impressive guard on an undefeated team despite standing only 5 feet 5 inches tall.

Harris County Tax Assessor Carl Smith, who went to school with Lyons, said his friend didn't like being called "Squatty" at first, but "it just hung with him."

After high school, Lyons took over his family's feed and grain store. He was elected county

commissioner in 1942, beating out incumbent Tom Graham. For the next 48 years, he never had a runoff and once went 15 years without an opponent.

But the county government he joined during World War II was a far cry from the one he left in 1991. Harris County's population had swelled to 2.8 million and the budget soared to \$1.3 billion annually.

Even Commissioners Court meetings changed, from occasionally backroom affairs to media-friendly public displays, complete with advance briefings and agendas.

All of which served Lyons' philosophy of government, Smith said.

"His motto was, 'Anything that's good for the public, I'm for it,'" Smith said.

Lyons' career was marked as much by his outspokenness as his longevity.

"He always had an opinion," said Fonteno, who served with fellow Democrat Lyons for 16 years. "He never abstained from voting. He always voted yes or no. He was always willing to discuss his viewpoint with anybody. The thing about it was you could

disagree with him, debate with him, he could lose a vote and he wouldn't get upset."

Which is not to say he wouldn't get heated. Commissioners Court meetings used to be considerably more contentious than the subdued affairs they are today. Lyons often butted heads with County Judge Jon Lindsay and the other members of the court, arguing passionately, and sometimes acidly, for what he believed.

At the same time, Fonteno said, Lyons often forgot arguments once the vote was taken.

"I've disagreed with Commissioner Lyons, but after the vote was over, he was on to something else," Fonteno said. "Winner or loser he was always the same. Squatty was a man of integrity, dignity and honesty."

Lyons is survived by his wife, Fern, and three sons, Everett A. Lyons III, F.S. "Scottie" Lyons, and Jim Lyons, all of Houston.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday at West End Baptist Church. Visitation will be 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Heights Funeral Home. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1100 block of Antoine.

EPA: Rule takes aim at lawn, garden equipment

From A-1

us assure that all Americans have clean, healthy air to breathe."

The EPA estimates that by the year 2003, when cleaner-burning engines are prevalent, the regulations should reduce emissions of hydrocarbons by 32 percent and carbon monoxide by 14 percent.

In the Houston-Galveston area, where smog levels are the nation's second worst, the proposal will help local officials devise clean-air strategies. The region must achieve a 3 percent cut in hydrocarbon emissions annually until 2007 or face federal sanctions.

The move takes the federal government into new territory — the nation's back yards and family garages — and the EPA is aware of the backlash it risks.

Officials bent over backward to stress that the new rules would not affect equipment now in use.

"If a consumer can squeeze 20 more years out of their unit, fine. This won't apply to them," said EPA spokesman David Bary in Dallas. "We really don't see this as a big deal. It's really quite a modest step."

Local merchants who buy and sell lawn equipment were not surprised by the announcement. They noted that some manufacturers, anticipating a crackdown on gas-powered devices, have gradually shifted to electric- and battery-powered technology.

Still, some sounded skeptical about the program:

"Until they resolve the larger problems, this really seems like shooting ants when there's elephants running around," said Norman Bering, co-owner of Ber-

ring's Hardware stores in Houston. "What's the EPA going to do? Peer over your back fence to check if your chain saw has a catalytic converter on it?"

Actually, the proposed limits are only the first phase of a program that ultimately may include boats, off-road motorcycles, go-carts and all-terrain vehicles, officials said.

Regulations on those smog sources are not expected until 1996, and will likely be phased in, Bary said.

EPA officials said the first phase of regulations can likely be met by simple tinkering with engine fuel-air mixtures, which would add about \$5 to the average price of a product.

The second phase will be more comprehensive, requiring catalytic converters, fuel injection and multiple circuit carburetors and alternative fuels.

SMOKE: Superheroes bow to 7-year-old's wishes

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tion came following research showing that the cartoon character "Joe Camel," who promotes Camel cigarettes, is as recognizable to children as Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse.

Critics of the tobacco industry say that role models who smoke cigarettes or cigars give children the false impression that smoking is part of a healthy, glamorous lifestyle.

Replying to a copy of the letter it received from the journal, Marvel said it agrees with Sammy's concerns.

"We have decided to omit smoking materials from all future Marvel trading cards," said company spokesman Terry Stewart.

Just home from his second-grade class at Lovett Elementary School on Wednesday, Sammy admitted that his father asked him if he wanted to write the letter and proceeded to help him write it.

Raised in a family that has imbued its offspring with anti-smoking zeal, Sammy said he felt personal concern over what he found in his trading cards — purchased for him by his mother.

"I didn't like it," he said. "I think it (smoking) causes harm because it can kill you. If there's no smoking (in the cards), maybe smart kids won't smoke."

Sammy's mom, Doris Blum, said the boy had collected the Marvel Masterpieces cards for "a couple of years" and bound them in plastic sheets but didn't take note of the tobacco use until last fall.

"I don't think there was any manipulation," she said.

Sammy's handwritten letter, printed in facsimile, reads in part:

"Dear Sir, "I collect Marvel Masterpieces. So do some of my friends and my brothers. I found 5 out of 100 cards that were smoking!! Some of them were villains and some were heroes. Here are their names. Blaze, Gambit, Kingpin, Nick Fury, and Red Skull. "Sincerely, Sammy Blum, Age 7.

Replied Marvel's Stewart:

"Sammy's questions regarding the depiction of a small number of Marvel characters smoking on trading cards has raised our awareness that these images might be subject to misinterpretation by young card enthusi-

asts." Stewart said Marvel was just trying to inject reality into its portrayal of certain characters and, in fact, had already delivered anti-smoking messages in some of its comic books.

"Extending these efforts, we reiterate our decision to keep smoking materials out of future trading card collections," Stewart said.

Marvel spokeswoman Pamela Rutt said the letter was the first complaint she had heard about the cards, which are sold nationally in packs and are about the same size as baseball cards. They feature glossy, full-color depictions of characters on the front and their biographies on the back.

Doris Blum said the letter was her son's first attempt at writing in his father's footsteps.

Her son had one complaint, though, about the publication, she said.

"He sent another copy that he wrote on a typewriter, and they printed the handwritten version."

Post News Services contributed to this report.

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